

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A vehicle, including:
 - a body having a cab and a bed;
 - a first expansion portion connected to a back end of the cab for movement toward the back end into a retracted position and away from the back end into an extended position, thereby respectively decreasing and increasing an interior space of the cab; and
 - a second expansion portion connected to the bed for movement toward the back end into a retracted position and away from the back end into an extended position, thereby respectively decreasing and increasing a cargo area of the bed.
2. The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the vehicle has a first length when the second expansion portion is in the retracted position and a second length, which is larger than the first length, when the second expansion portion is in the extended position.
3. The vehicle of claim 1, wherein the vehicle has a first wheel base when the first expansion portion is in the retracted position and a second wheel base, which is larger than the first wheel base, when the first expansion portion is in the extended position.
4. A vehicle, including:
 - a body having a cab, a bed, and a longitudinal axis; and
 - an expansion portion connected to a back end of the cab for movement toward the back end into a retracted position and away from the back end into an extended position, thereby respectively decreasing and increasing an interior space of the cab.
5. The vehicle of claim 4, wherein the expansion portion includes a rear wall extending substantially between a pair of side walls of the bed, and a plurality of telescopic sections that are substantially nested when the expansion portion is in the retracted position, and extended when the expansion portion is in the extended position.
6. A cargo area container adapted for mounting in a bed of a pickup truck, the container including:

a housing having a pair of side walls, an upper wall extending between the side walls, and a lower wall extending between the side walls, the side walls, upper wall, and lower wall collectively forming an interior space; and

an expandable insert having a pair of side walls, an upper wall extending between the insert side walls, a lower wall extending between the insert side walls, and a rear wall extending between the insert side walls, upper wall, and lower wall, the insert being mounted to the housing for movement between a retracted position wherein the insert is positioned substantially within the interior space, and an extended position wherein the insert extends from the housing.

7. The container of claim 6, wherein the insert moves between the extended position and the retracted position along an axis that is substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the truck.

8. The container of claim 6, wherein the rear wall includes a window.

9. An expandable cover for a bed of a pickup truck, including:
an upper wall configured to span between a pair of side walls of the bed; and

a plurality of side panels configured to substantially span an area between the upper wall and the upper edge when the upper wall is moved to an extended position wherein the upper wall is spaced above the upper edge, and to be positioned between the bed side walls when the upper wall is moved to a retracted position wherein the upper wall is substantially planar with the upper edge.

10. The cover of claim 9, wherein a first portion of the plurality of side panels are configured to be received by a cavity formed in one bed side wall when the upper wall is in the retracted position, and a second portion of the plurality of side panels are configured to be received by a cavity formed in the other bed side wall when the upper wall is in the retracted position.

11. The cover of claim 9, wherein adjacent side panels within the plurality of side panels interlock with one another when the upper wall is in the extended position.

13. The cover of claim 9, further including a plurality of actuation assemblies connected between the bed and the upper wall for moving the upper wall between the retracted position and the extended position.

14. The cover of claim 13, wherein each assembly includes a housing configured for mounting to a side wall of the bed, and a first segment that is telescopically movable within the housing.

15. The cover of claim 14, wherein each housing is mounted within a cavity formed in a bed side wall.

16. The cover of claim 14, wherein each assembly further includes a second segment that is telescopically movable within the first segment and connected to the upper wall.

17. The cover of claim 13, wherein each assembly includes a lower bracket adapted for mounting to a bed side wall, an upper bracket connected to the upper wall, and a pair of braces extending between the lower bracket and the upper bracket.

18. The cover of claim 17, wherein the lower bracket includes a pair of slots, the upper bracket includes a pair of slots, and each brace includes a first pin adjacent one end of the brace and a second pin adjacent another end of the brace, the first pins of the braces moving within the upper bracket slots and the second pins of the braces moving within the lower bracket slots and the upper wall moves between the retracted position and the extended position.

19. The cover of claim 17, wherein the braces of each assembly pivot relative to one another about a pivot pin extending between the braces.

20. An expandable cover for the bed of a pickup truck, including:
a first side segment configured for pivotal connection adjacent an upper edge of a first side wall of the bed;

a second side segment configured for pivotal connection adjacent an upper edge of a second side wall of the bed;

a first top segment pivotally connected to an edge of the first side segment; and

a second top segment pivotally connected to an edge of the second side segment;

wherein when the cover is in an extended position, the side segments extend upwardly from the upper edges and the top segments extend over the bed.

21. The cover of claim 20, wherein when the cover is in a retracted position, the top segments and the side segments are positioned in substantially parallel relationship to the side walls of the bed.

22. The cover of claim 21, wherein when the cover is in the retracted position, the first top segment is positioned between the first side wall and the first side segment, and the second top segment is positioned between the second side wall and the second side segment.

23. An expandable cover for the bed of a pickup truck, including:
an upper wall having a first notch and a second notch, the upper wall defining an interior space therein;

a first foldable side wall adapted for connection to a first side wall of the bed, the first foldable side wall having an upper segment and a lower segment pivotally connected to the upper segment;

a second foldable side wall adapted for connection to a second side wall of the bed, the second foldable side wall having an upper segment and a lower segment pivotally connected to the upper segment;

a first insert; and

a second insert;

wherein the upper wall is movable between a retracted position wherein the upper wall is positioned substantially adjacent a floor of the bed, the foldable side walls are substantially enclosed within the interior space of the upper wall, and the first and second inserts extend partially through the first and second notches, respectively, and an extended position wherein the upper wall is spaced above the bed side walls, the upper segments of the foldable side walls are substantially planar with the lower segments of the foldable side walls, and the inserts may be inserted into the notches to for a substantially continuous cover over the bed.

24. A vehicle having an expandable cargo area, including:

a pair of side walls partially defining the cargo area; and

a cap extending between the side walls;

each side wall including an inner panel connected to a floor of the cargo area, and an outer panel mounted to the inner panel for vertical movement relative to the floor between a retracted position, wherein the outer panels support the cap at a first distance above the floor, and an extended position, wherein the outer panels support the cap at a second distance above the floor, the second distance being larger than the first distance.

25. The vehicle of claim 24, wherein each outer panel includes a cavity for receiving the respective inner panel when the outer panels are in the retracted position.

26. A vehicle having an expandable cargo area, including:

a pair of side walls extending along a respective two sides of a cargo area of the vehicle, the sides being substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the vehicle; and

an end wall extending along a third side of the cargo area, the third side being substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis;

wherein each side wall includes a forward wall and a floor portion and is configured for lateral movement relative to the longitudinal axis between a retracted position wherein the floor portions cover a portion of the floor of the cargo area and the side walls define a first width of the cargo area, and an extended position wherein the portion of the floor of the cargo area is revealed and the side walls define a second width that is larger than the first width.

27. A vehicle having a configurable cargo area, including

a floor defining a lower boundary of the cargo area;

a first side wall connected to the floor along one side of the cargo area; and

a second side wall connected to the floor along another side of the cargo area in substantially parallel relationship to the first side wall;

the side walls being pivotally connected to the floor for movement between a substantially vertical orientation wherein the side walls engage an end wall of the cargo area to substantially enclose three sides of the cargo area, and a substantially horizontal position wherein the side walls disengage the end wall and are substantially planar with the floor.

28. An apparatus for configuring a vehicle cargo area having a floor and a pair of side walls, the apparatus including:

a floor portion configured to be mounted in the cargo area between the side walls for movement between a retracted position wherein the floor portion is positioned substantially adjacent the cargo area floor, and an extended position wherein the floor portion is positioned above the cargo area floor;

a support and actuation assembly for moving the floor portion between the retracted position and the extended position; and

a pair of wheel well enclosures, each enclosure including a top panel;

wherein a pair of notches in the floor position couple with the enclosure top panels as the floor portion moves from the retracted position to the extended position, and disengage the top panels as the floor portion moves from the extended position to the retracted position.

29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the floor portion is substantially planar with an upper edge of the side walls when in the extended position.

30. A vehicle having a cargo area, the vehicle including:

a pair of side walls extending longitudinally along a floor of the cargo area in substantially parallel relationship to one another; and

a floor portion configured to be mounted in the cargo area between the side walls for movement between a retracted position wherein the floor portion is positioned substantially adjacent the cargo area floor, an intermediate position wherein the floor portion is positioned a first distance above the cargo area floor, and an extended position wherein the floor portion is positioned a second distance above the cargo area floor, the second distance being larger than the first distance;

wherein each side wall includes an upper panel having an upper edge and a lower edge that is pivotally connected to the side wall for movement between a substantially vertical orientation and a substantially horizontal orientation.